

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01209 311545Z

60
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DRC-01

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R 311500Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4114
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 12092

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, EEC, GW
SUBJ: FRG PROPOSAL ON DUTY-FREE IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
FROM IRAN

REF: STATE 164851

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PAGE 02 BONN 01209 311545Z

1. ECON/COM MIN RAISED FRG PROPOSAL IN IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM

PRODUCTS FROM IRAN WITH FON MIN ECONOMIC DIRECTOR HERMES ON JULY 30. WE RECALLED THAT MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH STEEG OF ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND WELCOMED FACT THAT PROPOSAL WAS NOT RAISED IN JULY 22-23 CONCIL MEETING.

2. WE ENQUIRED WHETHER THIS DECISION MEANT THAT PROPOSAL HAD BEEN DROPPED. NOT SURPRISINGLY, IN LIGHT OF WHAT WE HAD BEEN TOLD EARLIER IN THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, HERMES SAID FIRMLY THAT PROPOSAL HAD NOT BEEN DROPPED BUT WOULD NOT COME UP AGAIN UNTIL EARLY AUTUMN WHEN THE EC RESUMED ITS REGULAR WORK.

3. WE EXPRESSED OUR GREAT CONCERN THIS INFORMATION AND SAID THAT FRG COULD EXPECT TROUBLES WITH THE US, EXPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF EC ASSURANCES ON LIMITING THE PROLIFERATION OF PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS. WE POINT OUT, FURTHERMORE, THAT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT WOLD BE IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF GATT OBLIGATIONS. WE ALSO CITED EARLIER US TURNDOWN OF SIMILAR PROPOSAL BY THE IRANIANS.

4. HERMES RESPONDED, SAYING THAT THE FRG HAD INDEED EXPECTED COMPLAINTS FROM THE US AND WAS SEEKING AN APPROACH WHICH WOULD SATISFY OUR OBJECTIONS. WE TOLD HERMES THAT FRAU STEEG HAD MADE THE SAME POINT BUT WE COULD THINK OF NO ORGUMENTATION OR RATIONALIZATION WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY THE FRG POSITION. WE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT FRG COULD EXPECT TO HEAR FURTHER FROM US ON THE SUBJECT.

5. COMMENT: IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESSURE FOR THIS PROJECT COMES FROM THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND SPECIFICALLY FROM STATE SECRETARY ROHWEDDER. AS SUGGESTED EARLIER, WE BELIEVE THAT LOWER LEVEL ECONOMICS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE HARD TASK OF DELIVERING ON A PROMISE MADE AT THE HIGHER POLITICAL LEVEL. AMBASSADOR, THEREFORE, PLANS TO MEET WITH FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY SACHS WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS TO REENFORCE THE REPRESENTATIONS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE. HILLENBRAND

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